



# CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

## COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

**AGENDA DATE:** September 28, 2004

**TO:** Mayor and Councilmembers

**FROM:** Creeks Division, Parks and Recreation Department

**SUBJECT:** ACCEPTANCE OF A \$5,000 GRANT FROM SANTA BARBARA BEAUTIFUL FOR THE OLD MISSION CREEK SUMMER YOUTH APPRENTICE PROJECT

**RECOMMENDATION:** That Council:

- A. Accept a \$5,000 grant from Santa Barbara Beautiful for the Old Mission Creek at West Figueroa Youth Apprentice Project; and
- B. Increase FY05 estimated revenues and appropriate \$5,000 to the FY05 Creeks Restoration and Water Quality Improvement Operating Fund.

### **DISCUSSION:**

#### Background

The Community Services Program of the Recreation Division (Community Services) operates a year-round job apprentice program that targets youth and young adults, who are between the ages of 14 and 21, and considered "at-risk" by their parents, school or law enforcement officers. The program aims to strengthen low-income families and neighborhoods by providing job training and skills development. Participants in the program undertake community jobs and participate in a series of skills training workshops. Throughout the apprenticeship, youth learn and demonstrate positive work skills and responsible behavior.

#### Old Mission Creek Youth Apprentice Project

Modeled on the job apprentice program, the Creeks Division and Community Services developed and implemented the Old Mission Creek Summer Youth Apprentice Project over a five-week period in summer 2004. The purpose of the project was to involve Westside youth in the clean up of Old Mission Creek in the West Figueroa area, build community participation in neighborhood improvement projects, and minimize the potential impacts of youth vandalism in the neighborhood over the summer.

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REVIEWED BY: \_\_\_\_\_ Finance \_\_\_\_\_ Attorney

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Nine youth apprentices that ranged in age from 14 to 17, and 2 project coordinators participated in the project. Working 20 hours per week, the youth removed enough non-native vegetation to fill 5 roll-off dumpsters. In addition, as shown in the table below, the youth apprentices removed a significant amount of debris and discarded household items.

#### Debris Removed from Old Mission Creek

Christmas tree	Bed frame	Rebar	8 wheels/tires
Toys	Bathtub	Asphalt	3 car bumpers
Aluminum cans	Washer and dryer	Concrete	3 car doors
1 bicycle	Stereo system	Metal pipe	Hubcaps
3 tricycles	Glass bottles	Leather seat	VW car parts
Shoes	11 shopping carts	Barrel drum	Axle
Clothes	Fencing	Street cones	Soccer balls
Blankets	Buckets	Basketballs	Auto transmission

As part of the project, participants also received hands-on training from Creeks and Parks Division Staff as well as the Public Works survey team in landscape development, habitat restoration, surveying, and water quality monitoring. To build communication and organizational skills, the youth apprentices developed and implemented the community tour and workday held on August 14, 2004.

Overall, the project achieved its objectives. In addition to initiating the clean-up and restoration of Old Mission Creek at West Figueroa, the youth apprentices learned valuable job skills, gained knowledge of creek restoration and water quality issues, and demonstrated a commitment to helping to keep their neighborhood clean and safe.

#### **BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:**

Jointly funded by the Creeks Division and Santa Barbara Beautiful, the cost of completing the project was \$12,000. These funds covered the purchase of tools and supplies, wages for the youth apprentices and project coordinators, and community outreach activities. In addition to the \$5,000 grant from Santa Barbara Beautiful, Marborg Industries donated the five roll-off dumpsters.

**PREPARED BY:** Jill E. Zachary, Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager

**SUBMITTED BY:** Nancy L. Rapp, Acting Parks and Recreation Director

**APPROVED BY:** City Administrator's Office

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